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AFGHANISTAN

FACT SHEET

Parwan Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Parwan from January 2002 - December 2010: \$82.9 million

Estimated population: 590,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of Afghanistan 2008-2009)

Capital: Chaharikar

Note: U.S.-led PRT based out of Bagram



The province of Parwan is situated on the Salang Road, the main route from Kabul to the northern provinces. The province sits at the base of the Hindu Kush mountains and the Parwan river plain and receives significant water and snowmelt from the mountains. Farmers cultivate cereal crops, fruits, and vegetables in the fertile valley and often sell their goods in the Kabul market. In addition, the Salang River is famous for its fish, and many tourists come from Kabul to Parwan's riverside restaurants.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on preparing farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural inputs, irrigation, veterinary services, market information, and training.

Current Activities:

- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation or loss of biodiversity
- Establish demonstration plots of wheat using water conservation technologies in Charikar, Bagram and Jabal-ul-Siraj
- Provide training in irrigation and agricultural production technologies to staff members of MAIL, universities, and agricultural vocational schools
- Engage an Afghan vineyard and integrated pest management specialist to conduct technical training for beneficiaries with new practical and theoretical methods
- Establish linkages among cooperative, Bagram Fruit Company, and international buyers
- Deliver training for Parwan farmers and Bagram juice and raisin plant staffs and for certification of the company
- Establish a farm service center
- Provide technical assistance and training to the province lead farmers, Afghan government extension staff, and area farmers



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- Train Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Improve the quality of grape harvests through vineyard trellising
- Train farmers on the improved method of raisin solar drying
- Apply the grape value chain approach to improve the product quality, grading, packing, packaging, pre-cooling, transporting, and marketing of grapes in new international markets
- Train farmers on the improved method of apricot sulfur drying

Accomplishments:

- Brought 4,000 hectares of land under improved natural resource management and trained eight staff of the provincial Agriculture Department
- Conducted a rangeland survey
- Contributed to the development of a rangeland law
- Created 91 full-time jobs
- Created linkages between raisin cooperative and international buyer resulting in the sale, processing, and delivery of 40 MT of fair-trade raisins to the United Kingdom in 2010 and similar orders in 2011
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to more than 18,000 farmers
- Established 16 private full-service AgDepot farm stores that provide agriculture supplies and services to support key legal crops and improve animal health
- Established 250 demonstration plots of forage crops and trained 250 farmers and five extension agents in forage crop production technologies in Jabalul Siraj, Saidkhel, Central Parwan, Shinwari and SiaGard districts
- Established 28 veterinary field units, trained 31 para-veterinarians, and provided vaccinations and medicines for livestock
- Established 28 woodlots, four nurseries, and 49 orchards
- Established the Parwan Raisin Producers Cooperative
- Established two milk collection centers, which were handed over to farmer cooperatives in Safyan and Jabul Saraj districts
- Increased Afghanistan's export potential by sending 2,000 kg of grapes to India for market testing and product promotion, with some lots selling at more than double their production cost
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies within MAIL
- Planted 250,000 trees and cuttings and 1,310 rootstocks
- Provided agricultural training and established 14 market collection centers to strengthen commercial agricultural opportunities, increase farmers' agricultural knowledge, and promote direct linkages between food brokers and farmers
- Provided technical assistance to promote improved raisin production, which has significantly improved quality control
- Purchased 4,000 chicks and equipment for a poultry farm, which, in turn, raised about 200,000 chickens that were distributed to farm owners
- Rehabilitated one raisin processing factory and constructed five collection centers in five villages in Charikar City
- Rehabilitated six canals and two dams to provide a reliable water supply to farmers
- Trained 27 Afghan government officials from the MAIL, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and other related organizations on community-based natural resource management practices
- Trained 300 grape producers in vineyard management, soil and water management, integrated pest management, harvest and post-harvest management; distributed various inputs including hand-rotary dusters, raisin drying mats, and trellising



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- Trained 333 farmers in Ghorband Valley on proper apricot drying techniques using the improved methods of sulfur drying
- Trained 51 farmers on trellis installation
- Trained 576 individuals on orchard establishment and forestry management
- Trained more than 360 Kuchi and non-Kuchi leaders in conflict resolution
- Trained nine grape and raisin traders in marketing skills & post-harvest management
- Trellised 10.2 Ha of existing vineyards in 51 vineyards to improve quality of grape harvests

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

Summary: USAID supports democracy and governance in Parwan Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice-sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

Current Activities:

- Support the Radio Sadi Suhl station in Jabulsaraj District with program funding and technical support as part of a national network of local radio stations that broadcast independent national satellite programming from Salam Watandar
- Support the Afghan Civil-Society Forum as an intermediate civil-society support organization which will organize community dialogues, run resource centers, monitor grantees, and provide capacity building to target civil-society organizations
- Train provincial and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy: financial management, human resources management, procurement, project management, and strategy and policy development
- Embed technical advisors in provincial line departments, who provide on-the-job training to civil servants to increase service delivery
- Provide capacity building, training, and small grants to eight Afghan civil-society organizations showing potential to be sustainable, effective organizations in the province
- Train provincial council members on the council's legal rights, monitoring, and oversight responsibilities, and getting them to communicate better with their constituents and represent them better in front of government entities
- Provide \$25,000/month through the Performance Based Governors Fund for governors to cover operational expenditures and perform community outreach projects

Accomplishments:

- Supported the development of the justice sector through the publication and distribution of judicial reference laws
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the Afghanistan Court Administration System
- Provided core, skills, and ethics training for judges allowing them to better officiate over the courts
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, and provided institutional, capacity-building training to civil-society organizations
- Supported the 2010 voter registration update exercise; assisted domestic and international observation missions; trained political parties and candidate poll agents; conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of



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the 2010 election; and provided civic education and media outreach activities for broad-based participation to promote a democratically-elected government

- Provided training and support to provincial councils, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic-education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and Sharia scholars
- Supported the Saba Media Organization for an education/literacy project
- Supported the Enjeel Association of United Sisters for a citizen's platform for gender equality project
- Supported voter registration, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys, and supported the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections
- Built three courts and renovated a district administration building in Shinwari District
- Hosted town hall meetings to provide an opportunity for citizens to speak directly to their elected and non-elected officials
- Opened a women's market in Charikar, where women entrepreneurs sell handicrafts, tomato paste, dry fruit, perfumes, and other items marketed to female shoppers to create jobs for women and increase municipal revenue
- Strengthened the Charikar municipality through training and technical assistance by embedded technical advisors, youth support, trash collection, a landfill feasibility study, technical support in establishing a Strategic Municipal Action Plan, digitized base mapping, and implementing municipal small-scale infrastructure projects

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Promote a thriving, legal economy led by the private sector.

Summary: USAID promotes a legal economy in Parwan Province through expanding access to modern banking services and telecommunications.

Current Activities:

- Promote economic related information and data collection activities in Parwan Province to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Promote improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Support the revenue reconciliation team of the Parwan Mustofiat, centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Support the Ministry of Finance's (MoF) provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to Parwan provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Support recent installation of automation at the Parwan Mustofiat, enabling the revenue department to automatically generate reports

Accomplishments:

- Facilitated and launched the Afghan government effort to connect provincial government offices in Parwan with Kabul through broadband technology (this Government Communications Network facilitates active, transparent governance by linking national and local-level decision makers)



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- Installed five District Communications Network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, Internet, and photocopying services to both the district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private sectors)
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Parwan Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue reports, and uploading into the consolidated MoF Financial Management System
- Automated the Parwan Mustofiat, enabling the revenue department to automatically generate reports
- Held a provincial budgeting capacity building workshop and trained 49 Parwan Province officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that better reflect local needs and priorities
- Reorganized land titling documentation at the Makhzan court register with new cost-efficient technology so that Afghans can now easily access their property documents (before the reorganization, the land administration office was unable to properly document land transfers, provide proof of ownership documents, or prevent the registration of fraudulent deeds)
- Supported 66 small and medium enterprises through business skills and business management trainings
- Funded the construction of the Kohi Safi Market to promote private-sector development
- Established a training center at the Chaharikar Municipal Building, providing business skills workshops for small and medium enterprises
- Established an Employee Assistance Center, which led to lower unemployment rates in the province
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$330,000 in medium-sized loans through USAID-funded financial institutions

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher training and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the quality of higher education; and improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and job training.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Parwan Province through three national education programs. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-governmental organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Support 55 community-based school classes in three districts to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Provide radio-based teacher support programs to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills to youth and adults (65 percent female) in 186 communities through 648 literacy centers



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- Train community leaders and village teachers in community mobilization, program management, and functional literacy skills
- Fund remedial education for girls
- Construct Charikar Teacher Training College to build a corps of professional teachers able to provide quality education to Parwan's children
- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Continue sponsoring education opportunities for professors in Afghanistan and abroad
- Construct a Faculty of Education at the university

Accomplishments:

- Established 648 literacy centers
- Constructed 29 schools
- Printed nearly 2.7 million textbooks
- Established a Professional Development Center at the university
- Introduced a teacher standards program and a standards working committee for assessment and validation at the university
- Supported a development-focused adult literacy program to educate 2,400 residents who did not have the opportunity to pursue a formal education under the Taliban

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Parwan Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through 21 private-sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in six sentinel sites
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS)
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new non-government organization staff, to expand the use of postpartum family planning

Accomplishments:

- Trained 700 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare in the province
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS



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INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure to create legal economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program in Parwan Province focuses on the rehabilitation of roads, power, water and sanitation facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Maintain the Gulbahar to Baharak Road to facilitate travel and reduce vehicle operating costs
- Strengthen the capacity of the Provincial Road Maintenance Unit of the Ministry of Public Works to manage road maintenance utilizing Afghan contractors
- Design gravity-fed, piped-water supply systems that will serve 11 villages in Jabulseraj District for eventual construction
- Design a new micro-hydro facility and the rehabilitation of an existing one in Salang District to provide power to 2,500 local residents

Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitated the sanitation system in Kohi Safi District, improving hygiene and sanitation for Parwan residents
- Boosted energy output through the conversion of 20 water mills into hydro-electric plants
- Constructed the Mahgir, Akhtachi, and Matak dams to increase access to water supply, and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Rehabilitated the Jabal Saraj to Gulbahar District Road and the Chaharikar to Gulbahar Provincial Road, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Provide carpentry classes for working-aged males from Sia Gird District
- Provide tailoring classes
- Provide school supplies and furniture
- Rehabilitate sanitation facilities and protective structures at one school in Shinwari District and sanitation facilities and sports facilities at two schools in Sia Gird District
- Support community efforts to rehabilitate small infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, and canals through community stabilization grants in five villages
- Provide toolkits to the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock to promote improved fruit drying techniques

Accomplishments:



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- Provided health and hygiene education classes for 1,000 women and 2,350 children in 12 communities
- Held workshops on proposal writing, communications, project planning, and report writing for provincial and district officials and line directorate staff
- Provided support to communities to construct or rehabilitate small infrastructure projects such as roads, canals, and footpaths through 11 community stabilization grants and three direct implementation activities
- Assisted the Department of Education by providing school furniture to a school in Shinwari District
- Provided winterization kits to 365 refugee families at the Beni Warsak Land Allocation Scheme in Baghran District
- Empowered 20 women and disabled people through tailoring training in Bagram District
- Provided sports equipment and schools supplies to 12 schools in Sia Gird District
- Helped 30,700 people, who have benefited through community-level labor intensive programs that improved city infrastructure, supported community development priorities, and offered temporary employment